

## MAY 2005



Cinco De Mayo—5th

**Mother's Day** - 8th

Armed Forces Day - 21st



Memorial Day - 30th

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## In Remembrance - Dr. Nancy Foster



Dr. Nancy Foster Geraci was a woman of science and hard work. After researching, I learned of Nancy's assortment of awards and accolades. I was inspired by her compassion for life and others. On June 27, 2000, Nancy lost her battle with cancer — a great loss to the world of Science. In light of Memorial Day, I felt it befitting to highlight Dr. Foster.

Nancy was a shining example of how hard work and determination can lead to success. She was a champion for the helpless, with a big heart. Dr. Foster began her career with NOAA in 1977. In an excerpt from the NOAA Report (July 2000), her husband, Joseph Geraci said, "there's a side to Nancy ...NOAA might not know. Animals comforted

her. She loved dogs, and never had fewer than two. We would visit state fairs and spend most of our time in the grooming barns, just observing nursery pens - calves, piglets, lambs and ducklings."

*"Her love of life was truly undivided.*

*She just venerated life!"*

Dr. Foster's accomplishments opened the door to many awards and tributes in her honor. Her most recent, April 2005, is the Nancy Foster Reef (Latitude 21°22' South, Longitude 151°22' East), a section of Australia's Great Barrier Reef — the largest barrier reef in the world. Recently, NOAA commissioned the Nancy Foster, a ship used in Ocean research. Other notable bestowments include: the Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center, several Departmental awards and the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program, to name just a few. In the words of Dr. Foster, *"...this is what we hope we can do for motivated students like yourselves. Help you open a door and help you take another step toward your dream."*

Dr. Foster is remembered by many for her dedication and hard work in various aspects.



## LSPS Attendance Included Senatorial Presentation

The 44th annual meeting and convention of the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors (LSPS) was a great success. The convention was held April 20 - 23, 2005, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center in Houma, Louisiana. There were roughly 300 participants at the convention.

On April 21st, a plaque of appreciation was presented to Ben Landry, of the Office of Senator Mary Landrieu — for her support in the establishment of the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC) and her interest in coastal and elevation issues.

The picture above shows Tony Cavell, a Member of the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors (left), Ben Landry of the senator's office (center), and John Bradford, the outgoing President of the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors (right), with the plaque that was presented to the office of Senator Landrieu. Also, during the conference, NOAA staff presented information on: recent surveys conducted along the Gulf Coast, elevations,



height modernization, subsidence and the National Spatial Reference System.

LSPS conference organizers thanked NOAA for a job well done, and indicated that this conference was one of the best meetings they've had for their membership.

The NOAA presentations and photos can be found at <ftp://ftp.rac.louisiana.edu/pub/NOAA/LSPS>.



*Pictured, in front of NOAA display:*

*(left to right)*

*Don Mulcare,  
Tim Osborn,  
Denis Riordan,  
Cliff Middleton,  
Kendall  
Fancher, and  
Ronnie Taylor*





## State Stories - A Calibration Base Line Spared!

Recently, a strategically located, Calibration Base Line (CBL) in the state of Colorado was spared from destruction. Jack Messenger, Colorado Department Of Transportation's Region 3 Survey Coordinator; Todd Beers, of Survcon Inc.; and Pam Fromhertz, the NOAA/NGS CO State Advisor, collectively reported the following about the incident (edited for this publication).

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) conducts a cooperative program that provides surveyors with a means to detect and correct errors in Electronic Distance Measuring Instruments (EDMI). There are more than 300 EDMC CBLs throughout the nation. They provide a locally accessible standard for length measurement. Surveyors compare EDMC measured distances to published CBL distances, between monuments; taking into account EDMC horizontal accuracy tolerance, as stated by EDMC equipment manufacturers. NGS and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) provide CBLs in areas that are convenient and accessible.

If a CBL isn't conveniently located for a surveyor, the process of traveling to a site, setting up equipment, making measurements, and then traveling back can take an entire day to complete. Surveyors and companies find using CBLs simple and convenient.

In 2002, surveyors were finding some CBL's difficult to access, in addition to some measurement discrepancies; and notified CDOT. CDOT found that many of its CBLs needed re-measurement. Last Spring, 11 of the state's 19 CBLs were re-measured; the remainder are scheduled for re-measurement in the summer. Survey results are available at [www.ngs.noaa.gov/CBLINES/BASELINES/co](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CBLINES/BASELINES/co).

Prior to re-measurement, CDOT encountered a situation where a CBL was in danger of being destroyed. CDOT Region 3 (1 of 6 offices) received a call from an engineering company that wanted to place a sewer and water line — in combination with the construction of a new high school (New Castle) — that would fall in a CBL right of way.

Jack, the Region 3 Survey Coordinator (Grand Junction, CO), was told that the 1200 meter CBL was in the way of construction, and would be destroyed. Jack contacted Pam, the NOAA/NGS CO advisor. Pam informed him that destroying one mark would, basically, destroy an entire base line which would be cumbersome and expensive to replace.

Replacing an entire base line would require a select location, which is difficult to find. Preferred sites run north to south, with slight grades. In addition, new marks have to be set at calibrated distances. The process of setting the marks is lengthy — after six months of settling, EDMC equipment (previously calibrated) would have to be flown in to allow new marks to be measured, then made available for use by surveyors.

CDOT special utility permit regulations require that survey monuments disturbed during construction be replaced at the requesting party's expense; hence the contractor for construction of the new school. Since the contractor would've had to bear the expense, the company changed its designs to avoid destruction of the survey mark.

Shortly after the construction was complete, it was determined that the CBL monument had not moved. NGS and CDOT combined efforts in re-measuring the monument at the 1200 mark. 🌐



*Barriers around the 1200 meter mark of the New Castle CBL during construction*

## Staff News

Rick Yorczyk's last day of over 30 years of government employment was Friday, April 29, 2005. He has worked with NGS since September 1975, where he started as a Geodesist. He once served as acting supervisor of the Special Project Section in the Horizontal branch; this cured him of any future supervisory ambitions.

Prior to coming to NGS, Rick was a member of the Peace Corps from 1973 to 1974. He served as a volunteer, teaching middle school science and math in rural Western Samoa. This was an interesting time for Rick; while in Samoa, he learned a language he no longer remembers, lived in a thatched hut, bathed under waterfalls, drank kava, danced, went spear-fishing, and took daily swims with sharks. Whew!! There's a brave and adventurous man behind that mild, reserved appearance. During Rick's years of "youthful wanderlust," he sailed on commercial copra (cocoanut) boats in Fiji and the New Hebrides (now Vanu Atua). He hitch-hiked through some back woods in Papua, New Guinea and actually met a few head hunters; pretty interesting, to say the least. He also spent 2 months on a British tramp steamer — he got to see a lot of ocean while on that ship. Next, as Rick puts it, during his "bohemian phase," he pursued ambitions as a visual artist. In his words, "this was great fun!" He met a remarkable number of people, "especially young women," who would easily undress when they were told that he wanted to draw a picture of them. This phase of his life was put on hold, due to one too many conflicting priorities with marriage, children and a day job. Yes, Rick is a family man; he has a beautiful wife, Amy, and two daughters, Arielle and Alexis. He and Amy met through a fellow co-worker in NGS; they've been married since 1979. Hey, what's their secret? As Rick so eloquently stated about his future plans, "...ditch the day job and resuscitate my bohemian phase." He also plans to start a computer-aided design drafting business. 🌟



*Rick - on a rotational assignment with NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration, exploring Lake Huron last summer.*



## Happy 50th Birthday to Lucy Hall!

Lucy reached grand status on April 7 of this year. She and other NGS-ers celebrated her 50th at the Mi Rancho restaurant, where she was crowned, in her glory, with an honorary sombrero. Restaurant staff gave her a personal version of a birthday cake with one candle, and proceeded to carol the guests with the popular tune. Lucy is a member of the Geodetic Services Division. She has been with NGS since 1977. At a small office celebration in her honor, it was evident that Lucy is truly adored by many. 🌟



## NGS Pride - Working Together

Recently, Richard Snay (Spatial Reference System Division) was hit by a jolt of NGS pride while at the National Earthscope Conference in Albuquerque, NM. He was approached by Dr. Mike Jackson, project manager for the Plate Boundary Observatory (PBO). Dr. Jackson expressed that he especially wanted to thank NGS for the assistance that state geodetic advisors provide, in identifying suitable locations for installing new GPS sites (for the PBO network). These GPS sites monitor crustal motion throughout the western United States (including Alaska). In addition to identifying new

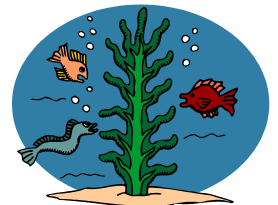
GPS sites, NGS is working with Earthscope — comprised of the PBO, the U.S. Seismic Array, and the San Andreas Fault Observatory at Depth — to create a rigorous terrestrial reference frame for North America; with an initial release expected Summer 2005. This frame will provide an alternative to NAD83 for supporting scientific activities. Additionally, the Earthscope project plans to include a technologically advanced subproject, to apply Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) that will monitor crustal motion at a greater spatial resolution than is feasible with GPS.

Go Team NGS!! 

## Upcoming Events

May 11 GEO Expo 2005 in Baton Rouge, LA. For information, visit <http://www.geoexpo.lsu.edu/2005info.htm>

## Restoration Day 2005 Is Coming!



Restoration day is June 14, 2005! NOAA, in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is having its annual restoration event. It is designed to give NOAA employees the opportunity to work together in making a difference in the Chesapeake Bay — through a variety of hands-on and in-the-field restoration activities. This is NOAA's fifth year in participation. Since NOAA began this event in 2000, each year, staff has aided in incubating various species of underwater grasses, that are transplanted into bay waters. This year we're growing the sago pondweed species. Previous transplantation has been successful; with your help, each year, we can continue our efforts. Why help? — the bay is a local

treasure that needs our help to maintain its function. NOAA supports habitat restoration activities, and restoration efforts are consistent with NOAA's mission statement. This year we've had an overwhelming response to the call for assistance — Thanks! For information on restoration day events and activities, visit <http://restorationday.noaa.gov>.



*Underwater grass in incubation, prior to transplantation.*



## Editor's Corner



To Spring clean, or not...  
that is the question! Since the  
arrival of Spring, I'm quite

sure most of you have pondered the thought of spring cleaning. This is the time when most people clean out the dust and dirt of the winter season. Whether you're enjoying the warm breezes, or waiting for cold days to end, Spring is here to stay; and with it being Daylight Saving Time, we have longer days and extra energy.

Most use the extra time for Spring cleaning; however, there's another point of view — that spring cleaning is unnecessary in an organized, modern home. Historic reasons for a traditional spring clean are no longer a factor in the vast majority of today's homes. There was a time when homes were heated with wood, coal or coal oil furnaces, the winter heating season brought a build-up of soot and ash on walls, furniture and fabrics. Spring cleaning marked the end of the heating season, when the entire house was aired and scrubbed clean of the dim, smoky film given off by older heat sources.

Today, this no longer applies since most homes have central or forced air furnaces, disposable air filters, and air filtration systems to prevent dirt build-up. Additionally, most families, especially those with young children, don't have the ability to clear two weeks from their calendars for a full-time cleaning session. Then there's the inevitable backlash! By the time we finish a good cleaning, we're apt to be so tired or frustrated, that we allow regular cleaning to slip off the radar. Instead of a reasonably clean house all year long, we sometimes slip into peaks and valleys of clean versus dirty.

Finally, there are valid reasons not to defer deep

cleaning to a single, yearly session. Carpeting lasts longest when it is vacuumed and cleaned regularly. Regular cleaning prevents grit from depositing deep down into carpet fibers. Also, windows, when washed regularly, tend not to develop scale build-up, which leads to the need for that once-a-year cleaning session. Aside from the lack of time, the main factor for avoiding spring cleaning is, in my opinion, plain old exhaustion!

### *So you ask, how do I replace spring cleaning?*

By creating a workable house cleaning plan. When you create a plan that coincides with your schedule, you will most likely stick with it. Instead of a yearly intense cleaning period, a regular plan provides for routine deep-cleaning of each room in the house, on a more frequent, staggered schedule.

### *How do I develop a cleaning plan for my home?*

The best plan for your home needs to be designed with your family's needs in focus. While there are lots of "do it my way!" options out there, "one-stop-shopping" methods fail most families, in the long run; because they're not suited to the unique needs and challenges of any given family.

A sound cleaning plan must be home-grown. While the steps can be fairly simple, you must begin by identifying "your family's" home cleaning needs. Once established, decide how often to perform the cleaning; then set up a calendar to schedule cleaning chores; and assign the chores to time periods that you mandate on the calendar. Good luck!

Here are a few web sites to help you get started:

<[http://www.familydigest.com/stories/spring\\_cleaning.cfm](http://www.familydigest.com/stories/spring_cleaning.cfm)>,

<<http://www.allabouthome.com/tips/cleaning/home.html>>,

<<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art30156.asp>>.



## Heritage Corner - Mark of Peace and Friendship



*Pictured, from left - Bernie Connor, Don Loomer, Mike Madler, Russ Huotari, Terry Jensen, Dave Zimmerman, Troy Jensen and Peter Olsen.*

In an April 14, 2005 article of the Sidney Herald (Montana), there was a story of the placement of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery II commemorative marker. Here's a summary of the article, originally written by the Herald's Bill Vander Weele.

The monument was placed at the Confluence State Park by members of the Northeast Chapter of the Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors and the Missouri Breaks Chapter of the North Dakota Professional Land Surveyors. This monument is one in a series, to be placed in conjunction with other memorials at designated sites along Lewis and Clark's Expedition route, throughout the west. Markers have already been placed in Great Falls, Montana and Mandan, North Dakota. Lewis and Clark were the first surveyors of the western end of the United States.

The mark was placed at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. It was created by NOAA's National Geodetic Survey. The marker represents Peace and Friendship through a symbolic handshake between "the Whiteman" and Native Americans (this is a replica of the peace medal used by the Lewis and Clark expedition).

Organizers thank Ed Savelkoul of Lower Yellowstone Electric Co-op; Russ Huotari of Richland County's

public works; and Gail Peterson of Sidney's Redi-Mix for their contributions to the memorial. In addition, thanks goes to Bernie Connor for his stone masonry and concrete finishing work. Another special thank you is extended to Genia Hesser, Superintendent for the Confluence State Park, for allowing the monument to be situated on park grounds.

Coordination and logistics from the local surveying community was enlisted by: Troy Jensen of Interstate Engineering, Inc.; Peter Olson of the Bureau of Land Management; Trevor Oakland of Oakland Engineering; Leo Horgan of Horgan Surveying; Dave Zimmerman of Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline; Roger Meyer of Guenzi-Meyer Inc.; Donald Loomer of Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, Inc.; Mark Aughtman of the U.S. Forest Service; and Curt Smith of the National Geodetic Survey.

The monument was dedicated on April 30th. A weekend event, held April 29-May 1, 2005, marked the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's arrival at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, as well as their entry into what is now called Montana. Bill Weikel, a Missoula surveyor, wore period clothing, while presenting a program depicting surveying during the time of Lewis and Clark.





## Did You Know?



**...that NGS has an on-line database of PowerPoint presentations?**

Lately, several employees have expressed the need for a central location for PowerPoint presentations. This way when someone needs to reference a particular presentation, it is available in just a few clicks. I found the “Basic Geodesy Workshop” helpful, it gave me a wealth of historical information about our agency. The database is located at:  
<<http://ngsweb.ngs.noaa.gov/PRESENTATIONS/>>.

**...that NGS has a set of on-line instructions for use in getting a document reviewed and out the door?**

Some employees are not aware of the instructions for document review and approval. In response to several queries, I thought it would be a good idea to let everyone know where NGS Clearance instructions can be found, on the NGS web site. Here’s the link:  
<<http://ngsweb.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/NGSeyes/clearance.html>>.

**...that NGS has an on-line database of policies?**

There is a wealth of information on NGS policies. They range from policy standards for establishing an EDM Calibration Base Line to a standard internal e-mail policy. There are policies for items going to the “public” and for items that are for “NGS eyes only.” Here’s the link: <<http://ngsweb.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/Policy.shtml>>.

**...that NGS has an on-line writing reference called the “Guide to Good Writing?”**

This writing tool can be used by one and all in formulating documents. According to the guide, good writing begins with the writer answering a few key questions. The answers are key in formulating a clear, concise and to-the-point document. If you find you need a little help, when you have to prepare a document, this tool can help. Using this guide can also assist with reducing editing changes. Here’s the link:  
<<http://ngsweb.ngs.noaa.gov/PRESENTATIONS/Guide to Writing/Guide to Good Writing.pdf>>.